

Response to Office Communication of January 08, 2007
Application No. 10/557,758

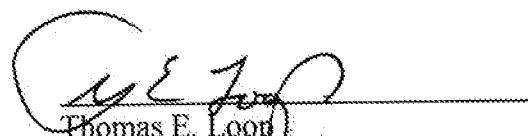
Remarks:

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above-identified amendments and following remarks (as well as the remarks made in connection with Applicant's previous Amendments) is respectfully requested. Claims 2, 3, 5-21, 23-26 and 28 are currently pending. Claims 1, 4, 22, 27 and 29 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 3, 5-21, 25, 26 and 28 presently stand rejected for the reasons of record. Claims 22-24 have been objected to for the reasons of record. Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 23, and 24 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

In connection with the Office communication dated January 8, 2007, the Examiner correctly points out that “[i]n discussing the prior art-based rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9-11 and 13, Applicant has stated that those claims, ‘as amended’, are patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record for previously noted reasons. But claim 1 has not been amended since the previous Office action.” Office communication page 2. Applicant agrees and thanks the Examiner for pointing out this oversight. In order to obviate the Examiner’s concerns in this regard, Applicant has now cancelled claim 1. In addition, Applicant has also amended claims 5-7 to reflect their proper claim dependency (necessitated by the cancellation of claim 1).

In view of the above remarks and claim amendments allowance of claims 2, 3, 5-21, 23-26 and 28 is earnestly solicited. A good faith effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. If any further matter requires attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 568-3100 to resolve the same.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas E. Loope
Registration No 42,810
(206) 568-3100 phone